



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

Signed April 12, 2001

Dear Colleague:

The purpose of this letter is to encourage your participation in a national effort to promote reform of the RCRA Corrective Action Program, specifically the RCRA Showcase Pilots. On January 11, 2001, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the second round of RCRA Cleanup Reforms. The reforms are intended to accelerate nationwide cleanup at facilities treating, storing or disposing of hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). EPA, the states, industries and other stakeholders are taking new actions to foster creative cleanup solutions. As part of the reforms, we are pleased to initiate the innovative cleanup pilots component, the RCRA Showcase Pilots. (Please see the RCRA Cleanup Reforms II fact sheet (Attachment 1) and our RCRA Corrective Action web site (<http://www.epa.gov/correctiveaction>) for additional reforms information.)

We seek to work with the states, industry and other stakeholders to develop 25 RCRA Showcase Pilots this year. The pilots are intended to showcase innovative efforts in Corrective Action and stimulate others to explore similar efforts to speed up progress toward cleanup goals. In addition to nationwide recognition, this pilot program provides you with an excellent opportunity to field test innovative approaches to expediting cleanups, to focus resources and expertise at one or multiple sites, and to showcase sites that can transfer lessons learned to other similar situations.

We encourage you to be active and full partners in this opportunity for positive change by developing or participating in a RCRA Showcase Pilot. If you have a preliminary idea for a pilot project, please contact your EPA Regional Office (Attachment 2) or authorized RCRA State Agency with your pilot project ideas (examples of pilot ideas are in Attachment 3). It is important that interested States be informed and involved in any RCRA Showcase Pilots.

RCRA Showcase Criteria

The following criteria are useful to consider as you develop ideas for the RCRA Showcase Pilots. The Regions are available to assist in the development of a pilot proposal and

will forward pilot submittals to EPA Headquarters between June 1st and July 15th, 2001. Pilot descriptions should be brief (1- 3 pages in length) and should address the following factors:

- What makes this project innovative (Does the project speed achievement of Environmental Indicators? Why will the pilot project/cleanup work?)?
- What are the benefits of this project (e.g., environmental, community, economic, other)?
- How have you involved stakeholders in developing this project (for example; owner/operator, tribe, state/local agencies, local community, redevelopers, other interested parties)? Where applicable, please indicate the level of support of the owner/operator.
- Who are the pilot participants and what is their role (for example; states, tribes, local agencies, other federal agencies, regulated industry, and environmental and community groups)?
- What is the potential for applying this innovative approach to other sites?
- What are the proposed project milestones and associated dates?
- Provide a brief description of the pilot facility, including location and regulatory status if the pilot addresses a specific facility.
- How and when will pilot progress be measured and reported?
- Who will oversee the pilot (State and/or Region)?
- Who are the key Regional/State contacts responsible for managing the pilot project (name, phone, e-mail, affiliation)?

For further information, please contact your EPA Regional Office or Gina Bowler in the Office of Solid Waste (703/308-7279 or bowler.gina@epa.gov), or refer to our RCRA Corrective Action web site (<http://www.epa.gov/correctiveaction>). Thank you for your time and effort in developing some thoughtful and innovative submittals. We look forward to working with you on this exciting effort.

Sincerely,

/S/

Michael H. Shapiro
Acting Assistant Administrator

Attachments: (3)

1. RCRA Cleanup Reforms II Fact Sheet
2. RCRA Showcase Pilots: Questions and Answers and EPA Contacts
3. RCRA Showcase Pilots: Examples of Innovative Pilot Ideas